

March 2002 Volume 3:2

Maricopa Makes the Grade Best In The U.S.



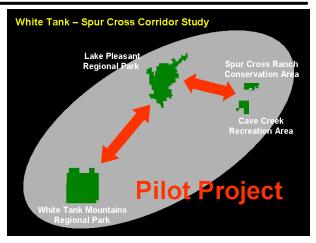
In a report released by The Maxwell School at Syracuse University and *Governing* magazine, Maricopa County, Arizona received an overall

grade of A- on how well it manages the county government systems that deliver public services. Published in *Governing*'s February 2002 issue and funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the landmark report is based on the most comprehensive evaluation of county government ever completed. It is the fourth in a series of reports on the management capacities of state, city, and county governments. Maricopa was one of only two counties receiving an "A." To read all the details go to:

http://www.maricopa.gov/cio/mfr/gpp.asp

Trail Corridor Study Nears Completion

The first component of the Maricopa County Regional Trail System Plan will be presented to the Maricopa County Trail Commission on March 27, 2002. The goal of the pilot project is to identify potential corridors trail connecting White Mountains Regional Park, Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. and Cave Creek Recreation Area. A second set of public meetings will be held in March to solicit



comments on the proposed corridors. The meetings will take place on March 14 at Ben Avery Shooting Facility and on March 19 at the Sunrise Mountain High School. Both will run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and be an open house format. (Click here for meeting notice.) In addition to seeking your input on trail routing, placement, and physical design, the commission is taking suggestions for the trail's permanent name. Your input during this crucial phase is an integral part of the study process. Study team members from the Maricopa County **Departments** (MCDOT). Transportation **Parks** and Recreation, Planning and Development, and Flood Control District will be available to answer questions and take comments.

For more information about the Maricopa County Regional Trail Plan visit www.maricopa.gov/trail or contact Reed Kempton at 602-506-1630 or reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov



April 13-21

Valley cities, employers, and residents are turning to pedal power for the Clean Air Campaign's 2002 Valley Bike Week (April 13- 21). The 5th annual event, which promotes bike safety and bicycling for commuting and recreation,

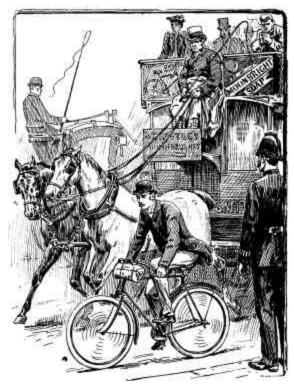
encourages people to set aside at least one day a week to trade in their cars for bicycles and experience a fun, healthy, and inexpensive alternative to the everyday commute.

Valley residents can enter to win a prize every day between April 15th and 19th just for cycling during the designated week. The Grand Prize, courtesy of American Airlines, is two round trip airline tickets, valued at \$1,000, to fly anywhere in the Continental U.S., including their new West Coast service, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Entry forms are available through Valley employers or by calling Valley Metro RideShare at (602) 262-RIDE (7433) and on-line at www.valleymetro.org. If you are looking for a bike buddy, logon to www.ShareTheRide.com where you can find the perfect match to ride with during Valley Bike Week.

2002 Bike Week Events

Bike Rodeos: Children will try their hand at safe bike handling. Local police officers and firefighters will teach kids the rules of the road. Contact Officer Bob Ward (602) 495-2462 to find a Bike Rodeo near you.

April 17, Bike to Work/School Day: Commuters who ride into work on two wheels will be greeted with food, prizes, and applause. Valley cities are gearing-up to recognize their residents and employees who ride their bikes to work. For ideas about organizing an event call Valley Metro RideShare at (602) 262-RIDE.



A scene from the first Valley Bike-to-Work Day

April 21, Bike to BOB: As part of the Clean Campaign, Arizona Diamondbacks player Tony Womack went to bat for cycling. Tony Womack and his family are featured in a bike safety poster that will be distributed during the April 2 Diamondbacks vs. Colorado Rockies game. Riders of the 5th annual Bike to BOB Family Fun Ride will enjoy food. refreshments and entertainment at Steele Indian School Park Then take a leisurely 4-mile in Phoenix. ride to the Bank One Ballpark. A \$12 per person fee includes food, refreshments, reserved seat game ticket, a tee-shirt, giveaways, and reserved bike parking at the ballpark. Call (602) 262-RIDE (7433) to register.

MCDOT Bicycle Program

For a copy of the MCDOT Bicycle Transportation System Plan, visit: www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/bicycle/bike.htm

New ADOT Bicycle Policy

ADOT, the Arizona Department of Transportation adopted a new bicycle policy effective March 1, 2002. The stated purpose of this document is to establish uniform guidelines for accommodating bicycle travel on the State Highway System. Click on MGT 02-1 BICYCLE POLICY to read the document. Comments or questions should be directed to Carol Scherbarth at CScherbarth@dot.state.az.us

Walking along the roadway

"An Analysis of Factors Contributing to 'Walking along Roadway' Crashes"

Α FHWA new subtitled study. "Research Study and Guidelines for Sidewalks and Walkways" is now available. study for the Federal Highway Administration was conducted to determine the roadway, traffic, and socio-economic factors related to pedestrian "walking along roadway" crashes involving motor vehicles.

http://www.walkinginfo.org/rd/for_ped.htm
#sidewalk

STPP Launches Reauthorization Website

The Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) has launched a new website to keep you posted on the hearing schedule, policy issues, and other developments in the TEA21 reauthorization process. For more info, visit: http://www.tea3.org

Bicycle Quote

The bicycle was the last advance in technology everybody understands. Anybody who can ride one can understand how it works.

--Stewart Parker, a playwright whose works include *Spokesong*

Resource Guide on Laws Related to Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

This resource guide from the National Traffic Safety Administration Highway (NHTSA) contains a compilation of vehicle and traffic laws that were judged by the guide's developers to have the potential to affect pedestrian or bicycle safety, either positively or negatively. It is designed for easy use by anyone interested in vehicle and traffic law and pedestrian or bicycle safety. This might include state and local bicycle pedestrian professionals. legislative and service bureaus, and others who work with bicycle and pedestrian laws. It can be used to select laws that enhance pedestrian or bicycle safety, to assess a state's position with respect to other states or the state of the art, or to examine the extent to which prevailing vehicle and traffic laws may impact the generation of pedestrian or bicycle crashes.

http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/ResourceGuide/index.html

Commuter Bicyclist Survey

Monique A. Stinson and Dr. Chandra Bhat of the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a survey of route preferences for bicycle commuting. The results will be used in Ms. Stinson's master's thesis, though it is hoped that the results will also be useful to planners and designers of bicycle facilities. To participate in the survey, please visit the website:

<u>http://www.ce.utexas.edu/stu/stinsoma/surve</u>
y/survey-Jan31.htm

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